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the duly constituted authorities will be little influenced by a schedule of the investments of those whose activities secured its adoption or by a knowledge that outside of the ratifying conventions it had more opponents than adherents. Yet if the Mount Sinai from which the law was secured is shown to be but a little hill, there is added justification for interpreting its provisions "*dans un sens évolutif*". An instrument designed primarily to meet the pressing needs of important interests at the time of its adoption should be interpreted so far as its language will permit to meet "the great public needs" of the generations which follow.

Thomas Reed Powell.

AIDS TO THE STUDY AND USE OF LAW BOOKS. By FREDERICK C. HICKS, Assistant Librarian of Columbia University. New York: BAKER, VOORHIS & Co. 1913. pp. 129.

Of "books about books" it has been said that they are not books at all, since they belong in neither of the two great classes into which the productions of the pen have been divided, the literature of knowledge and the literature of power. While this is a sound criticism of such works as lead us to be content with a second hand instead of a first hand acquaintance with the literature on which our culture or our professional learning is based, it has no application to books which seek to guide us to that literature or help us to appraise its value for our purposes. These, if not literature, are at least books, and in an age suffocated with works which claim our attention, books of indispensable value. It is to this useful class of books about books, that Mr. Hicks' little handbook belongs. The sub-title describes its scope and purpose: "A selected list, classified and annotated, of publications relating to law literature, law study and legal ethics". Under the head of "Law Study" it has gathered an interesting mass of material dealing with the state and methods of legal education in England and America, from William Dugdale's "*Originales Juridicales*" (1680) to Charles Warren's "History of the American Bar" (1913) and including such matter of permanent value as Professor J. B. Ames' "Vocation of the Law Professor" and Heinrich Brunner's "Sources of the Law of England". There are chapters on "How and Where to Find the Law", "Legal Bibliographies", "Legal Terminology", "Text Books and Treatises" (American and British), "Case Law", "Statutes and Session Laws", "Law Collections in the United States" and "Legal Ethics". Except in the first and last chapters "the work is composed chiefly", as the preface states, "of annotated titles about law books". It will be seen from this description that the work furnishes just the kind of information that the law student most needs to enable him to find his way through the mazes of legal literature. The only improvement which can be suggested is further annotation indicating the relative values of the books enumerated. It is to be hoped that, in a second edition, Mr. Hicks will furnish this additional help. The work has been furnished with a full index.

George W. Kirchwey.

THE CANADIAN TORRENS SYSTEM. By DOUGLAS J. THOM. Calgary, Saskatchewan: BURROUGHS & Co. 1912. pp. xl, 798.

The above-named work is one of the most careful and analytical examinations of the Canadian Title Registration System which has